THE

Present Condition

OF

The English Navy

Set forth in a

DIALOGUE

BETWIXT

Young *Fudg* of the Admiralty,

AND

Capt. *Steerwell*, an *Oliverian* Commander.

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The present Condition of the Navy set forth in a Dialogue.

Fudg. CAptain, you were angry t'other day at our Management, and boasted very largely of the Courage, Discipline and Virtue of former Times; but now, if your Leisure will permit, I will undeceive you, and plainly demonstrate that our Discipline is much better, and more consistent with our Interest than formerly.

Steerwell. I am ready to be instructed; but in the first place, explain your self what you mean by *our Interest*, whether you mean the Publick Interest of the Nation, or the private Interest of your selves in particular.

Fudg. Sir, you talk like a Commonwealth's-man, when you talk of the Publick Interest of the Nation; I mean the King's Interest and our Interest.

Steerw. This is still more obscure; pray explain your self further: What then is that you call the King's Interest, and your Interest?

Fudg. If you believe what the Courtiers said a very few years ago in the House of Commons, the King's Interest is a Standing Army; and consequently a Fleet, which is a Security directly opposite to an Army, is not his Interest nor ours.

Steerw. What you say is consistent with your Management of the Fleet; but I am afraid your Courtiers at that time

ſpoke one word for the King and two for themſelves. For themſelves indeed an Army was neceſſary; their Cheats, Robberies and Piracies render'd them obnoxious to the Laws of our Realm, againſt which nothing but an Army could ſecure them, becauſe *inter Arma ſilent Leges.* For the King's Intereſt an Army could never be thought neceſſary: Souldiers are the Tools that Tyrants work with; a King of *England* is certainly ſafe amidſt his own People, eſpecially King *William*, who was ſo much the Darling of his People, that they turn'd out a Tyrant to place him on the Throne. To make an Army neceſſary in order to render a Fleet uſeleſs, is pulling down our main Prop to rely upon the weakeſt Security that can be, conſidering the Situation of our Country, and Strength of our Shipping. It was a ſtrange thing to me to hear Men who had rais'd their Fortunes by the Sea, and one would have thought knew well the Advantage of Shipping to ſuch a Country as *England* is, ſhould be work'd upon to declare againſt a Fleet by voting for a ſtanding Army: But indeed neither our Armies nor our Fleets, tho ſupported with ſo many Millions of the People's Mony, have very much advanc'd the Honour and Glory of our Country, nor preſerv'd us that Reputation abroad which our Fore-fathers left.

Fudg. You muſt conſider that our Admirals were Colonels of Marines as well as Flag Officers; and this might be one reaſon, beſides pleaſing the Court, for their voting for a Standing Army. Your Commonwealth Governments never give ſo great Allowances to Officers as your Monarchies do: Under a Commonwealth Men ſeek not their own Good but that of the Publick; they are as it were one Family link'd together by the Bonds of a natural Alliance; and the Good of the Whole tends to the Advantage of every part, as the Nouriſhment the Root of the Tree receives extends its Aliment to every Arm, Branch and Cyon. But we that ſerve Kings, think our ſelves oblig'd only to advance their Intereſt, pleaſe their Humour, and without reſerve fulfil their Deſigns,

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beſides a particular regard we muſt have to our own Intereſt; we muſt make our Hay while the Sun ſhines, for new Kings have new Favourites, and an Officer in one Reign may be no more known in another than if he were born in *Ethiopia*. Now you that have ſerv'd a Commonwealth Government are not ſo capable of judging of our Management, becauſe you are not acquainted with thoſe Maxims by which we govern our Affairs.

Steerw. Indeed I am not acquainted with the Policies of Courts of Soveraign Princes; but methinks the Policy of all Governments ſhould be conſiſtent with their Foundation. I am bold to affirm no Tyrannical Government can ſubſiſt long, and that all Governments ought to be managed for the good of the Whole; the difference betwixt one Man and another is only perſonal, in reſpect of Power and Title; the Liberties of a Country would be the ſame, were there no diſtinguiſhing Titles of Kings, Princes, Dukes, Earls, Marqueſſes, Barons, Knights, Eſquires, *&c.* Theſe are but mere Enſigns of Honour, which may *abeſſe & adeſſe ſine interitu Imperii*; and will not any Man ſay, that a Commonwealth Government, which makes a People great, is much better than a Monarchical Government which makes a People little, and expoſes them to Contempt and Beggary? He that ſays there is no difference betwixt a Free State and Tyranny, does affirm that there is no difference betwixt Liberty and Slavery: And without doubt that Government is the beſt that conduces moſt to the Advantage of the Governed, for whoſe ſakes there is ſuch a thing as Government, which was never contriv'd for the Advantage of the Governor, who has his Right by Grant of the Governed; for one Man is no more born to Power than another.

Fudg. This old Story of *Noll*'s Government runs in your Head, Captain, and I find you cannot be eaſy without it: but the Miniſtry hate Men of thoſe Principles; and if ever we are to keep a Man out of an Employment, we preſently

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give him the Name of a Commonwealth's-man, and that does his buſineſs effectually.

Steerw. Prithee, *Fudg*, thou art quite miſtaken in me, I am not for a ſtrict Republick, ſuch as *Holland* or *Venice*: By a Commonwealth I mean the Common-weal, the common good of a People, for which Ends and Purpoſes all Governments, whether Monarchical, Ariſtocratical or Plebeian, were at firſt inſtituted; and I do believe that the Government of *England* is the beſt ſuted to the Genius of our People, and under a good Adminiſtration would tend more to the common good of the Realm than any Government in the World: but if Officers manage themſelves in publick Poſts as you ſay, and have other Views than the publick Good, our Government is loſt. For I take it to be an indiſputable Maxim, that a Government not duly executed according to its Conſtitution, is downright Tyranny; and therefore our Laws have made Proviſion againſt evil Miniſters, and our Records and Hiſtories are full of Inſtances how they have been puniſhed for Male-Adminiſtration. Now, Sir, tho you are a part of the Miniſtry of the Navy, as having in Print call'd your ſelf a Miniſterial Officer, I muſt tell you that Treachery and Male-Adminiſtration in our Naval Affairs is a Crime of the higheſt degree, as the well Management thereof is of the greateſt Importance to the Welfare of the Nation: For a Fault of this nature puts us upon making uſe of other Aids for our Security, that may prove deſtructive to our Realm. A wiſe Phyſician will not uſe Phlebotomy, Cathartick or Sudorificks, if he finds Nature ſtrong enough to expel the Diſtemper; and if by his Negligence in uſing the Aids of Nature he has at laſt recourſe to Opiates, 'tis ten to one odds if his Patient be not loſt; and if he be recover'd, his Conſtitution is much alter'd, and his natural Strength much impair'd. It's the very ſame thing in the Navy of *England*, which is our Natural Strength; inſtead of aſſiſting of which, if we ſuffer it to decay and loſe its Vigor,

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we are weaken'd in the trueſt Security of our Realm, and do leave our ſelves open to the Inſults of any Invader; and if we apply the unnatural and poiſonous Remedies of a Land Army, the Remedy is worſe than the Diſeaſe, from which, if by theſe Helps we are freed, the Medicine will certainly devour us.

Fudg. I muſt acknowledg the Navy of *England* is its beſt Security.

Steerw. How then comes it to paſs that we have been ſo negligent, and either abominably fooliſh or treacherous in that Affair? Time has been when the *Engliſh* could beat at Sea both the *French* and *Hollanders*; and how came it to paſs that lately the *Hollanders* and *Engliſh* could not match the *French*? This muſt certainly proceed from Treachery and Cowardice.

Fudg. Some one, ſome t'other. Indeed it is no great wonder if the Ships of War be betray'd, when the Inſtructions and Orders of the Commanders paſs thro ſo many Hands, and the *French* are ſo willing to give Mony for Intelligence: Was it ever known in your time, Captain, that the Minute-Books of the Admiralty were ſent from that Board to the Council?

Steerw. No; we had Men in Offices that we could truſt, whom we paid well for good Services, and hang'd 'em as well for bad; every Man minded his own buſineſs, and it was no advantage to one Commiſſion to be as Spies upon another; all things mov'd in a regular order for the good of the Commonwealth, and we had very few Inſtances of Treachery in thoſe times, becauſe no one paſs'd without due Puniſhment.

As for Cowardice, we knew nothing of it, our Men were more willing to charge and diſcharge Guns in an Engagement, than to haul the Main-Tack aboard in a Flight. We were well aſſur'd of the Courage of our Men before we made 'em Commanders, and when they had done any brave Action, we did them Juſtice in rewarding them with Mony

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and Honour; we did not Knight them to encourage them to fight, but dubb'd them becauſe they had fought well. Pray can you tell me for what great Action M——n was Knighted?

Fudg. I know not, nor how a great many more of them got their Honour; nor am I ſo ſawcy as to enquire for what reaſons his Majeſty beſtows the Marks of his Honour.

Steerw. Nor I neither; but I am afraid his Majeſty has Characters given him of Men, that were never conſiſtent with their Actions, otherwiſe Sir *Robert Rich* and others unacquainted with Sea Affairs had never been Lords of the Admiralty, nor have had the greateſt Concern of the Nation put into their Hands: For the wiſeſt Man in *England* is but a Blockhead when he is out of his own Element, and acts very awkardly in a buſineſs he has never been accuſtom'd to. Do you take thoſe to be honeſt Men that adviſ'd the King to employ Perſons unqualify'd in the Admiralty? were they either true to the King or their Country? Does not this look like a Deſign upon our Country, when our chiefeſt Security is purpoſely impaired, and the Navy of *England* put into the hands of Men that are obliged either by Intereſt or Inclination to ruin and render it unſerviceable? For certainly theſe Men procur'd theſe Poſts in the Navy for no other ends. May not Sir *Chriſtopher Wren* with better Aſſurance and more Honeſty make Intereſt at Court to be Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, than theſe Men to be Lords of the Admiralty? Sir *Chriſtopher* knows how to build a Cathedral, that's ſomething *in ordine ad*; but theſe Men don't know a firſt Rate Man of War from a Herring-boat, nor the Helm of a Ship from a Hand's Spike.

Fudg. But may not theſe Men learn and underſtand the Buſineſs of the Navy in a ſhort time?

Steerw. And may not our Nation be ruin'd and undone while they are learning their Buſineſs? Will you go naked until ſuch time as your Friend is capable of making you a

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Sute of Clothes? Has his Majesty any need of imploying such unskilful insignificant Triflers in the Admiralty, when we have so many brave Men in *England* expert in Naval Affairs, whose Courage, Honesty and Conduct may be rely'd upon?

Fudg. If the People were to make an Admiralty themselves, it would not be one whit mended: The Citizens of *London*, who esteem themselves to be wonderful wise Men (as appears by the Horn-book they gave their Members to read in Parliament) not many years ago made a stir about Convoys, as having lost many of their Merchant Ships: nothing would serve their turn for a Remedy, but they must have one of their own Wise-acres at the Board, the Person they pitch'd upon was Sir *J*— *H*— and I can assure you I found no difference betwixt him and the rest of the Folk.

Steerw. How true I can't tell, but I have heard that the Citizens once petitioned the Board for Convoy for their Shipping as far as *Cales*; and one made Answer that they had no Ships out of Station, that they could allow as Convoys as far as *Cales*, but they could oblige them with Convoy as far as *Leghorn*, which you know is as far beyond *Cales* as it is thither.

Fudg. We have had many such Blunders; once one of the Sparks came to the Board where a Captain was waiting for Orders; the Spark call'd in one of my Clerks, and commanded him to write his Order thus, That he should immediately repair on Board his Ship at the *Nore*, and thence sail directly for the *Downs*, and in his way thither take all the Ships at *Graves-End* under his Convoy.

Steerw. And do you think that these Men, who have not so much knowledg in Sea-Affairs as the Fish-women at *Billingsgate*, are fit to manage so great a Concern as that of the Admiralty? Have not all the Advantages the *French* King has got over us proceeded from this Error in our Ministry? And if you look back into the very Infancy of our Country,

you'll find that foreign Powers always got their Ends of us by our being negligent in our main Security. The People of thoſe times were perpetually peſter'd with Foreign Invaſions, inſomuch that ſcarce an Age paſt without ſome Revolution or other, till *Edgar* built his Fleet of Cock-boats, which were found ſo beneficial to this Country, that in time they grew into good and defenſible Ships; ſo that now for upwards of 600 years we have had no Invaſion nor Conqueſt upon *England*. The Province of *Holland* and *Weſt-friesland* was continually plagu'd with the Inroads of neighbouring Enemies, till by the Advice of the great *Coligny* they were acquainted with their chief Strength, which was their Shipping, in which they have ſince become ſo powerful, that for a Series of Years paſt they have had no Competitor upon the Sea except the *Engliſh*: And if *Holland*, which is an open Country by Land, liable to the Invaſion of many Territories and Powers, has found ſuch Advantage by their Ships of War, is not *England* much more benefited by a Fleet, which is ſurrounded by the Ocean, and has no Back-door open for an Enemy to come at them by Land?

Fudg. The benefit of a Fleet to *England* is unqueſtionable: The only difference betwixt me and you, Captain, is the Management and Diſcipline of the Fleet; you affirm the old Management and Diſcipline to be the beſt, which I utterly deny.

Steerw. To conſider the Management of a Fleet truly and properly, we muſt firſt conſider the Qualifications and Abilities of the Managers. By what has been ſaid already concerning the Admiralty of *England* during the War, we could expect no better Succeſs than has happen'd; this was an Error in the firſt Concoction, which unhappily influenc'd the whole Management: For Men wholly ignorant of Sea-Affairs, were incapable of judging who were fit to command our Ships of War; and if theſe were join'd with Men who

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knew Sea Affairs, but were such as resolved to ruin the Navy, by appointing Commanders for that End and Purpose, the Reputation of the Navy must sink of course.

Fudg. We did, Sir, as in other Offices; we made a Penny of every Body that came before us, except such as got themselves preferred by Interest.

Steerw. A Commander that buys his Commission under K. *W.* will certainly sell his Ship to K. *Lewis*, to reimburse himself his Purchase Money. For his Commission is his Merchandize, and he must traffick to the best Advantage: These Methods have not only discouraged Men of Merit, but it has commissioned our Ships with Officers, that either thro Cowardice or want of Conduct have delivered up their Ships with little or no Fighting; and then have had a Jury appointed on purpose to clear them, which have consisted of Men that have been of their own Gang, and knew not how soon they might come under the same Circumstances.

Fudg. Pray, Captain, in your Time, when did you judg a Commander had fought his Ship well?

Steerwel. We thought a Captain had well fought his Ship, when he had two Thirds of his Men killed and wounded, with his Masts and Standing Rigging shot by the Board, and six or eight Foot Water in the Hold: If upon these Terms he delivered up his Ship, we thought he had acquitted himself with Honour and Bravery, and he was sure of a fresh Commission when he came home.

Fudg. You must stay till the Return of your Times, if you expect such Fighting again; our Commanders are not so long winded as that comes to; after two or three broad Sides they are out of Breath, and look aloft to see whether the Topsails fill, out studding Sails, keep her full, keep her full, you Dog, and way she goes by or large as she sails best.

Steerwel. 'Tis true, and by this means and want of Knowledg have we lost a good Fleet since the Revolution: And if at any time these Cowards have come home, they have gene-

rally been rewarded with better Commiſſions; ſuch a Reſpect have your Managers paid to Men that have been inſtrumental in the Ruin of the Navy: nay, their Kindneſs has reached them beyond the Grave, for I hear the Managers have got a conſiderable Penſion for the Widow of Captain *Skelton*, who thro Careleſneſs and Ill-management, loſt the *Coronation* near the *Eddy-Stone*; in which Ship at leaſt 500 Sailors were drowned, beſides a few Whores, and ſome dear *Jacobites* of his Acquaintance, that he took with him for his Diverſion; when at the ſame time they ſuperannuated Captain *Votier*, for fighting his Ship as long as ſhe could ſwim, and for killing the Enemy three times the Number of the Men he had on board his own Ship.

Fudg. You know Captain *Votier* is an old Man, I believe 60 when he was ſuperannuated, and I can aſſure you we have abundance of young Men that wait for Commiſſions.

Steerwel. But would it not be more for the Advantage of *England*, to have ſuch old Fellows command our Ships, who we know will fight, tho they were but juſt able to crawl up the Gang-way to the Quarter-deck, and incourage their Men, than to have young Cowards employed, whoſe Hearts are juſt as large as their Underſtandings, which are not half ſo long as their Whigs? I am fully ſatisfied that no Ship ſince the Revolution, was better fought than that of *Votier*'s; and when I firſt heard of the Action, I thought he would have been preferred, and the Perſon that ſent him out would at leaſt have been diſcharged. For was it not a prepoſterous Action of a Commander of a Squadron, to ſend out a Bomb-Veſſel to get Intelligence of the Enemies Ships, when he had light Frigates and Brigantines enough with him?

Fudg. That Commander without doubt had been long enough in his Poſt, to get Money ſufficient to ſet aſide any thing of that Nature. Money you know anſwers all things. Did you never hear the Story of Captain *Guy*?

Steerwel. No; pray let me hear it.

Fudg. Guy had been often accuſed of Cowardice by hi Ships Crew; they had ſigned ſeveral Round-Robbins againſt him, inſomuch that he was juſt like to drop by the Board: He made his Application to Sir *Robert Rich*, who for the Sum of 200 *l.* paid into the Hands of one *Croſs* a Non-conforming Miniſter, Sir *Robert*'s common Broker, he was got removed into the *Speedwel* a 5*th* Rate, and ſo was out of any further Danger of his Crew.

Steerwel. Was the *Speedwel* commiſſioned at that time?

Fudg. Yes, but Captain *Wavel* who commanded her, was diſcharged to make room for *Guy*.

Steerwel. Was that Captain diſcharged for no other Reaſons than that? Were there no Articles againſt him? We never uſed to break a Commander before he was tried by a Court Martial.

Fudg. He was never tried by a Court Martial, nor could I learn of any Articles againſt him; but one Day one of the Lords came to me, and told me, I ſhould enter Captain *Wavel* diſcharged upon the Books: I asked him for what Crime, he told me, upon account of the Complaint of the Lords Juſtices of *Ireland* againſt him for ſome Irregularities.

Steerwel. This is a ſtrange way of Proceeding; was the Letter of the Lords Juſtices put upon the File, or entered in your Books?

Fudg. I never ſaw that Letter, nor do I believe any body elſe ſaw it; but it was afterwards pretended, that the Letter came from my Lord G——*y* to my Lord ———.

Steerwel. It's a ſtrange thing, that a Foreigner ſhould be able by his Letter to turn an *Engliſhman* out of his Commiſſion, who has a natural Right to the Service of his Country.

Fudg. When my Lord G——*y* came to Town laſt Spring, Captain *Wavel* went to his Lordſhip to know of himſelf the Nature of the Complaint he exhibited againſt him, by virtue of which he loſt his Ship: But my Lord knew no more of the

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Buſineſs than my ſelf, and proteſted to the Captain that he never wrote a Line againſt him, and his Lordſhip ſent to our Office to enquire about it, but we would not give him any Satisfaction in the Point. Indeed, *Wavel* was a good Commander, and behaved himſelf very well on the *Iriſh* Station, as his Certificates from the Merchants of *Dublin* and *Liverpool* do teſtify; and indeed I am ſorry for him, he has not been fairly dealt with.

Steerw. This is a barbarous piece of Injuſtice, and by this uſage has the Navy of *England* been ruined. But why did it fall to that Captain's Lot to make room for *Guy*, more than to another?

Fudg. I'll tell you the practice of our People in this Caſe; ſuppoſe one of them has a Friend that is fluſh of Money and will be generous, and this Man is minded to be Captain of a Ship, and there be no vacancy, ſo that room muſt be made for him; then they look over the Book, wherein we have the Captains Names, and the Names of the Perſons that recommended them, which in our Language ſignifies the Qualification of Officers; for Recommendation now ſignifies the ſame thing, as Qualification did in your Time. If the Recommender be a Perſon of Honour and living, then the Perſon recommended is as red hot as a Bullet not to be touched or meddled with, for in this Caſe Intereſt will oppoſe Oppreſſion; ſo they look onwards till they come to a poor ſcrubby Fellow, that by mere Accident has got into Commiſſion by his Merit and long Service in the Navy; this is the Man they pitch upon, and out they hoiſt him of his Commiſſion, and fill the Vacancy with their Friend: E'en ſuch a kind of Perſon was poor *Wavel*, he had been bred a Sailor from his Cradle, and had ſerved an Apprenticeſhip to Commiſſioner *Wiltſhire*, he had been about 20 Years in the Navy, and got into Commiſſion by mere chance.

Steerw. And was got out of Commiſſion by mere Knavery. Prithee, *Fudg*, tell me no more of theſe Stories, let this be

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the laſt, I know thou haſt a Budget full of them. But it makes me quite mad to ſee the Natives of my Country ſo far degenerated and run mad all together, to rail at a Parliament becauſe they did not raiſe more Money to put into the Hands of ſuch mercenary Varlets, who have no other deſign, than the Ruin of the Navy of *England*. But did Captain *Wavel* put all this up? Did he demand no Satisfaction or Juſtice of your Creatures?

Fudg. He did petition the Board, but met with no Relief; afterwards he petitioned the King, ſetting forth his hard uſage, and indeed in his Petition accuſed our People of Injuſtice, but the King referred his Petition to our Board.

Steerw. I have heard, that Queen *Elizabeth* uſed to hear Caſes of this Nature with her own Ears: Well, what did your People do in the Caſe?

Fudg. They took off his Suſpenſion, and made him firſt Lieutenant of the *Sterling Caſtle*, where he may remain all his Life Time unleſs he lug out.

Steerw. Well; ſuch are your Officers, and from ſuch Men the Sailors could expect no better Treatment than they met with the laſt War: This is the Reaſon they have been ſo much abuſed. I muſt tell you, one great Cauſe of Succeſs in our Time was our civil Treatment of the Sailors, we paid them well, we fed them well, and this made them fight well. We uſed no ſuch inhumane Barbarities as are practiſed in the Navy in theſe Times.

Fudg. But how did you keep up your Diſcipline? There muſt be an Oeconomy in the Fleet.

Steerw. As are your Commanders, ſo will be your Sailors: If your Commanders are Cowards, your Sailors will be ſo too. If your Commanders are ignorant, there is no Encouragement for a Sailor to ſtudy Navigation and the other Arts uſeful to a Commander; ſince a Blockhead may get a Commiſſion at your Board as ſoon as an Artiſt. In our Times, our Commanders were never given to Curſing and Swearing,

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and therefore the Sailors never durſt damn and ſink as now adays. Our Commanders were under the Government of the Laws of the Land, and therefore they never inflicted Arbitrary Puniſhments upon their Men, as Whipping and Pickling, which is the practice of the Commanders of theſe times; we never uſed to whip any but the Boys, whom we laſh'd to a Gun upon the Quarter Deck, and gave them moderate Correction before the reſt of the Boys of the Ship. If we uſed a Cat-a-nine-Tails, we never uſed to wire them as your Commanders do; with one of which I have heard a poor Fellow was whipt in the *Weſt Indies*, till his Entrails could be ſeen thro his ſides. We never uſed to prick Men Run upon our Books, on purpoſe to cheat them of their Wages, and to put their Money in our own Pockets.

Fudg. What did you do then in the Caſe of Deſertion?

Steerm. If we made their Wages forfeited, it was only upon that Ship wherein they became Delinquents. We did not, as now, make their Wages forfeited in all Ships in which they had ſerved, becauſe they run away in the laſt Ship; nor indeed could this well be, for we generally paid them upon Diſcharge from one Ship, before they entred upon another; nor had we that abominable way as now adays, to turn Men over from one Ship to another without paying them their Wages; and in ſhort our Uſage and Pay was ſo good, that the Publick Service was the beſt in *England*, and 'twas eſteemed a Puniſhment to turn them out of the Service. This Running of Men was never practiſed after that barbarous manner in the two laſt Reigns; a Sailor's Ticket was then eſteemed as the King's Bond, and paid at ſight: I don't remember any were unpaid, except thoſe in 66. which was eſteemed a great piece of Injuſtice, and thoſe Tickets amounted to a very ſmall Sum in reſpect of the Tickets that are now made run, which I am told amount to the Sum of ſome Hundreds of Thouſands of Pounds; and thoſe Tickets

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that have not been made Run for want of due Payment are much ſunk in the value, for which they were made out; the poor Sailors, to buy themſelves Clothes and other Neceſſaries, being forced to ſell them at half value.

Fudg. All this is occaſioned thro want of Money, and we can't help it.

Steerw. Now you have Calls and Recals, and I know not how many cramp Names in Payment, which I don't underſtand. But above all I wonder that the Sailors ſhould be cheated of their Proviſions, when I obſerve that the Parliament has allowed in Money one 3*d* more for a Man *per Diem* than was allowed in our Time, tho Proviſions are now far cheaper. I don't remember that ever our Fleet was put to ſhort Allowance in the Channel, nor any where elſe, unleſs contrary Winds kept them longer in the Voyage than was expected.

Fudg. But tho we put our Men to ſhort Allowance in the Channel or elſewhere, we always allow them Pinch-gut Money in lieu of ſhort Proviſions.

Steerw. And thus by pinching their Guts you ſpoil their Courage, for Men half ſtarved can never fight well. *Sancho Pancha* had more ſenſe than all your *Quixots* of the Admiralty. He ſays, if you conſider the Texture of a Human Body, the Guts ſupport the Heart, and not the Heart the Guts; and the Money you pay them in lieu of Proviſions, does them yet a further Diſſervice, this Money they ſpend either in Wine or on Whores, which weakens their natural Vigour, effeminates and renders them unfit for Service. Nor have they the Species of Proviſion, as good as is allowed them by their Country. They are allowed Bread made of all Wheat, as appears by the Inſtructions given to the Victuallers, *That every Man is to have for his Allowance by the Day one Pound of good, clean, ſweet, ſound, well-bolted with a Houſe-Cloth, well baked and well conditioned Biſket.* But inſtead of this they have been fed with Bread made of Peaſe,

Horſebeans, Rye, Barley, and other undue Mixtures.

Fudg. This was complain'd of to our Board, and we found it a certain Truth.

Steerw. But your Managers did not put a ſtop to it for all that: The ſame thing has been ſince practis'd, and was the very laſt Seſſion complain'd of by Petition to the Houſe of Lords, but the Complainer was never heard by their Lordſhips, and without doubt the ſame Practice continues; and queſtionleſs the Officers of the Victualing by theſe Methods have acquir'd vaſt Eſtates out of the poor Sailors Bellies. One *Safford*, a Clerk in that Office to the Treaſurer, out of a Salary of 30 *l. per An.* has made his Boaſts, that in leſs than four years time he has clear'd in his Office 3000 *l.* and another out of a Salary of 80 *l. per An.* ſince the Revolution is ſaid to have got betwixt 20 and 30000 *l.*

Fudg. All this may be true for ought I know: But, Captain, the Baſtard Child got in that Office is juſtly laid at the door of your own Party, 'tis an old Blade of the 41 Cut, and a zealous Groaner at a Conventicle is chief Manager: If the Saints are allow'd their Failings and Infirmities, much more may we be excuſed who do not pretend to abundance of Sanctity, and do not eſteem our ſelves perfect.

Steerw. The old Gentleman you ſpeak of may be abus'd.

Fudg. And ſo may we too; for Lying is an offenſive Weapon on either ſide, which has but very lately been us'd to a Miracle againſt the late Parliament in defence of all the publick Cheats in the King's Dominions, and this by your Preachers, the Bell-weathers of the Party. Come, Captain, don't juſtify this Point; if you do, I ſhall be too hard for you.

Steerw. I'll juſtify no ill Man, were he my Father or my Brother: But indeed the old Gentleman you ſpeak of has a very good Reputation.

Fudg. So have the Lords Partitioners by the ſame Party, as have all the publick Cheats of the Kingdom: But is a Man ever

ever the honeſter becauſe he has the good word of a Party ſpirited againſt their own Repreſentatives? I ſpeak now as an original Whig.

Steerw. I ſpeak now for my own Information, without Bigotry to a Party: Pray what can you obſerve in the Actions of that old Gentleman that is inconſiſtent with the true Character of an original Whig?

Fudg. In the firſt place, he got better Men than himſelf turn'd out of that Office, to get the Management into his own hands, under pretence of their being guilty of poiſoning the Sailors with Guts in their Drink, and Gauls in their Meat. This Deluſion took as much with the zealous Mob as your *Kentiſh* Petition, and your Legion Letter did the laſt Seſſions; and yet your old Saint, either for Mony or by Intereſt, kept thoſe very Men in Office that put the poiſonous ſtuff into the Victuals, where they are to this day his greateſt Favourites, and he never yet prefer'd one Man that had ſuffered or that had done any Service to his Country.

Steerw. This I know to be true, and do condemn him for it; but he's above all Reproaches, as having the factious Preachers on his ſide, having ty'd them by the Teeth by many Treats, beſides a few drops of the Golden Shower, which you know makes all Plants grow as we would have them.

Fudg. Indeed it was wonder'd how that old ſanctified Apoſtle could join with Men in Commiſſion who were known Enemies to their Country, that were Men of no Merit; and one of them in particular had been a common Informer againſt, and Perſecutor of Proteſtant Diſſenters in the late Reigns.

Steerw. You know 1000 *l.* a year is a very comfortable Importance; beſides his Son being Treaſurer was a better Emolument to him than his own Commiſſion.

Fudg. This is all true: I know the Profits of that Office better than your ſelf, and pray for the future don't complain

of any of my Tory Friends, for I can match them amongſt the Whigs; and therefore proceed in your Cavils againſt the Management of the Navy.

Steerw. My next Complaint is of your Regiſter-Office, abundance of Mony has been yearly ſtopt out of the Wages of the Sailors of *England*, according to the Act of Parliament for regiſtring of Seamen; but I don't hear that any of the Regiſter Tickets have been paid, inſomuch that I am inform'd thoſe Tickets are alſo ſtock-jobb'd, and bought at half value. Now I think, Friend *Fudg*, the Nation as well as the Sailors have occaſion to complain of this Grievance. The Security was Parliamentary, and the Deſign of the Act was for the publick Good, in having a competent Number of Seamen in a readineſs for the Fleet; and this failure at the preſent Juncture may prove very fatal to this Kingdom.

Fudg. As long as the Men have regiſter'd themſelves, they muſt come upon Summons; you know the Penalties in the Act.

Steerw. And I alſo know the Proviſions of the Act, 'tis a perfect Contract; and if by Non-payment the Contract on the ſide of the People be void, can the Act be binding upon the Sailors?

Fudg. Theſe are Caſualties in Government that often happen, and indeed are unavoidable, for Mony muſt be apply'd in caſes that are moſt urgent. But, Captain, pray proceed in your Cavils at our Miniſtry.

Steerw. Another thing I object againſt, is the Miſmanage of *Greenwich* Hoſpital; that is a Parliamentary Bounty: How comes it to paſs after ſo much Mony rais'd for that purpoſe, and after ſo many years paſt, there is not one Sailor taken into the Hoſpital?

Fudg. Sir *Chriſt. Wr*— can better inform you in that Point than my ſelf.

Steerw. That Hoſpital is juſt like a Ship laid up, it has all its Warrant-Officers, but no Men; and by your choice of

Officers

Officers we may give a guess at your Management. It's a strange thing that no able Men who had serv'd in the Navy could be pick'd up for Officers in that Hospital, but we must have Land-men that have no Title to such a Place employ'd in that Affair! Have you one Seaman either an Officer or Pensioner in *Chelsea*-College? Is it not a shame that Mr. *P-wl-ng*, who has a great Post in the Stamp-Office, and who has procur'd another for his Son in the Customs, should also have a considerable Post in that Hospital, when we have so many Men of Merit, whose Wounds in the Service of their Country at Sea, besides their low Circumstances and necessitous Condition, might have recommended them to that Charity, which was design'd for the Relief of the poor Servants of our Country, and not for the rich Monoplizers of Places, who have their Hands in every Pocket of the Nation, and have already made their Fortunes far beyond their Deserts? I think neither the Nation nor the Sailors have Justice done them, if this Grievance be not redress'd; for I take it to be a setting aside the true intent and meaning of that Act of Parliament. After so many years past since the signing of that Act, 'tis a strange Management, that no Sailors are taken in, when I understand the Hospital is in a condition to receive some hundreds.

Fudg. But if there be not Mony to maintain them there, it is the same thing as if there was no room for them.

Steerw. Herein lies the Mismanagement, which perhaps is a greater Detriment to our Nation than it appears to be at first sight; Do you design to make *Paul's* work of it? I think it has been half 20 years in building already, and if there be not Mony enough to build it out of hand, why may not Men be taken in, and the overplus of the Mony be employ'd in finishing the Work? Perhaps you design to do by this Hospital as the Admiralty did by a Third Rate in *Portsmouth* Dock in *Charles* 2d's time, who kept her so long in hand, that by the time they had laid her Deck and finish'd her Poop, her Keel

dropt out. It may happen the Part already built may want Props by that time you have finish'd the whole. Indeed I could wish this Hospital had been the farther Concern of our Parliaments; and I think it your Duty to have put the Members in mind of a thing so encouraging to the Sailors. Mr. *Wasse* the Surgeon, who was the first Contriver of it, and represented the same to the best of Queens, late Consort to his present Majesty, has made many fruitless Proposals to Parliament for the Endowment thereof; and particularly the Mony stopt out of the Sailors Pay upon pretence of *Q*'s and *R*'s, he desired might be apply'd to the use of *Greenwich* Hospital: And do you think it were not better to have it thus apply'd, than to remain in private Pockets?

Fudg. You are mistaken in that point, it is neither in private Pockets nor in Bank, but otherwise expended for publick Service.

Steerw. I am sure it were well apply'd this way; and if the Prize-mony had been thus apply'd, would it not have been better bestow'd than in Grants upon Men of no Merit, and been more naturally given to Men who had lost their Limbs in getting the Purchase? But indeed, Friend *Fudg*, our poor Sailors, our poor Souldiers, and others the tatter'd Supports of our Realm, must languish under such a fatal Negligence, while those who are imploy'd in our Naval Affairs are so diligent *vitiis & modis* in making their own Fortunes, and the Dogs of our Country are perpetually barking at Court for the Childrens Bread.

Fudg. You begin to grow into a Passion, Captain; but since you are engag'd in Reflections, pray proceed to enumerate the other Faults of the Navy; let's have it all out.

Steerw. 'Tis an endless Labour, 'tis a Story will last from *June* to *January*: I have said nothing of the Navy-Office, the Management of the Docks, the fraudulent Contracts for Naval Stores, the Embezelments in the Yards, the Management of the Transportation of the Sick and Wounded,

of

of the Treaſurer of the Navy, till Sir *Thomas Littleton*, who is one Example that a Man be employ'd in the Navy and yet be honeſt. I could mention a hundred Inſtances of Grievances, which I am almoſt out of hope of ever ſeeing redreſs'd.

Fudg. Well, Captain, ſince you have done with Miſmanagements, pray let us diſcourſe a little about good Management. I have been at Sea, but know little of fighting; you know in the time of Action mine was a ſafe Poſt in the *Horlop* to look after my Books: But what is your Opinion of fighting in a Line of Battel?

Steerw. I don't approve of it at all, we never uſed it, and I think we fought as deſperately, and did as good Service as any that have ſucceeded us. I'll give you my Reaſons againſt your Line: When two Fleets engage in a Line, ſuppoſing the Admiral's Poſt to be the Center, and the Fight be begun by the Windward Squadron; the Ship firſt begun can only be ſupported by its Second, for the Admiral by reaſon of the Smoak cannot ſee how to ſend her convenient Succour; for Signals are uſeleſs ſoon after the Commencement of the Action. Now when we fought without a Line, every one made the beſt of his way to engage the Enemy, we look'd for no Signals, but when we ſaw one of our own Ships overcharg'd by the Enemy's, we immediately bore down to her Aſſiſtance; if we ſaw one of our Ships grappl'd by a Fireſhip, we came immediately to her Aſſiſtance, and after we had clear'd her, we ſheer'd off, and ſtood away to the beſt advantage, either to the Succour of our own Ships, or to charge the Enemy: By this means every Captain ſhow'd his Conduct and Bravery, which he could not have done had he waited for Signals.

I'll give you an Inſtance of the Weakneſs of your Line: At the Fight of *La Hogue*, after the *French* Fleet was broke, your Admiral kept the Line, when if he had divided the Fleet and ſent them in a juſt purſuit, the *French* had met with

a more fatal Blow; for every disabled Ship of the *French* Fleet made the best of her way, as the Wind and Current serv'd, so that we had four great Ships of the *French* that were separated from their Fleet fell so far to Leeward as the back side of the Isle of *Wight*, where they lay several days together fixing of Jury-Masts, and making good their Rigging, and at last got off, which they could not have done had our Fleet been divided, as aforesaid.

Fudg. For my part I don't understand Fighting, but it's a strange thing that the Navy-Officers of all Nations should be mistaken in the Politick part of fighting.

Steerw. For my part I never saw fighting in a Line; but this I am certain of, if our Officers are in the right in their method of Fighting, they don't manage their Tack to the best advantage.

Fudg. Captain, I am ready to be Instructed, and therefore I would desire your Opinion concerning the Management of the next War, which is likely to happen very speedily.

Steerw. A new War I believe to be unavoidable, and we are much beholden to the last Parliament that we are not enter'd into it already, and so become the Fight-alls, the Pay-alls, and the Lose-alls of *Europe*, as we have hitherto been. But if we have a War managed as was the last, we had better spend a little Mony in Booms and Chains to secure our Ships in Harbour, than to send 'em abroad to spend our Mony, lose our Reputation, and not secure our Trade. I cannot perswade my self that the Parliament of *England* will ever more send the Native Strength of their Country abroad in other Peoples Quarrels, and be at the Charge of Levies, Clothing, Arms, and Transportation, to put their own Liberties in danger at home by a Standing Army, when they have done the business of our Allies abroad. The Men we lost, and the Mony we spent in the late War, as also how hard it was to get them disbanded in opposition to the Interest

of

of Men that wanted them to support their Titles to their illegal Grants and ill-gotten Gain, is too fresh in our Memories ever to bring ourselves under the like Hardships. I foresee that the War now will be at Sea, and we have but a very ill Omen of Success from the last Summers Expedition of our Fleet: Our Modern Whigs in their Legion Letters and *Kentish* Petition exclaimed against the Parliament, because they raised no more Money; but I hope those Folk if they have any Brains or Honesty are now sensible of their groundless Complaint, when they find how little has been done for what was there raised: They gave 1500 Thousand Pounds for the Fleet for this Summers Expedition; and what has been the effect? The whole Fleet went to convoy *Bembow* in his way to the *West Indies*, and while they were gone our Modern Whigs boasted of the Conduct, and built Castles in the Air to hold the Money they would bring home in the *Spanish* Galleons, but in a short time we found them all at *Spithead*, except a few Ships that proceeded with *Bembow* to the *West Indies*, where if they be not *Talmash'd* they have good Fortune. Would it not have tended much to the good of the Empire, and to the strengthning of the Confederacy, for *England* to have had a good Squadron this Summer in the *Straits*, which might have animated the *Neapolitans* in the Emperor's Interest, and so disheartned the *French* Party, that in all probability *Naples* had been in the Emperor's Hands?

Fudg. You run on again upon Mismanagements, I thought you said you had done with them: Pray, Captain, let me have your Thoughts upon the future Management of the Navy, 'tis never too late to amend.

Steerw. I can compare the People of *England* to nothing better than a Horse, who ignorant of his own Strength suffers himself to be rid and lashed by every little Boy. That the natural and genuine Strength of our Country should be thus neglected, and the Walls of our Island thus impaired by a Company of little Upstarts, is a mere Riddle; and if we will

do better for the future, we muſt begin *de novo*, we muſt then break up the old and rotten Ship of the Admiralty, and build a new one from the Keel; for this will have a damn'd Lee-ward way, whenever we come to fetch up the antient Glory and Honour of our Country: in ſhort, we muſt have Men in that Poſt, that are Men of Courage, Honeſty, and Skill in Naval Affairs.

Fudg. Your downright Tarrs are never fit for that Poſt, I know them well enough, they are generally inſolent, illiterate and ignorant; and a Perſon that can work and fight a Ship well, is not qualified for ſo great a Concern.

Steerw. I don't mean your hawl-Boling Men, and ſuch as have learned to ſwim in a Hammock, but Men of Learning and Parts, yet well verſed in Sea Management. We have not wanted ſuch Men, but they have not been employed; if ſuch Men had been commiſſioned in the Fleet, they might have been ſuperannuated into the Admiralty; when they were paſt Labour, they might have ſet at the Helm, and have taught others how to ſteer. I am ſure your Landmen are never fit for ſuch a Poſt, thoſe that have been uſed to hunt Hares and Deer know very little how to chaſe Privateers and Rovers; and there is a great deal of Difference betwixt engaging a Bottle, and a firſt Rate Man of War. I'll give you one Inſtance of Land Management in Sea Affairs in the late War.

Whilſt *Norris* was Commodore of the Squadron at *Newfoundland*, *Pointi* came upon that Coaſt with 5 *French* Men of War, in which was the Treaſure they had got from the *Spaniards* at *Carthagena*. The *Engliſh* Squadron had frequent Advices of their being on the Coaſt, as alſo that moſt of their Men were ſick, and their Proviſions ſhort, their Ships foul and in a bad Condition. Colonel *Gibſon* was then Commander in chief of the Land Forces there; I know not whether their Inſtructions obliged them to it, or whether they did it of their own Head; but ſo it happened, that a Council of War was called, which conſiſted both of Land and Sea Officers. This Council of War was held at *St. Johns*, 24*th*

of

of *July*, 1697. by which it was carried that the Squadron ſhould not go to Sea, and ſo we loſt *Points* and all his Booty.

And to demonſtrate to you that this failure was occaſioned by the Land Officers being joined with the Sea Officers in the Council of War, I ſhall give you the Liſt of that Council of War, every Man ſigning his Opinion to his own Name. Here take it, and read it.

Seamen.		Landmen.	
Francis Dove,	Yea.	*John Gibſon*,	No.
Robert Stapilton,	Yea.	*Tho. Dore*,	No.
James Littleton,	No.	*Tho. Handuſſd*,	No.
Charles Desborow,	Yea.	*Gliſſ. Brexton*,	No.
Cooper Wade,	Yea.	*Griff. May*,	No.
Roffey,	No.	*Hugh Boyd*,	No.
James Mighells,	Yea.	*M. Smith*,	No.
Tho. Day,	Yea.	*Rob. Datyell*,	No.
John Cranby,	Yea.	*H. Petit*,	No.
John Drake,	No.	*George Watkins*,	No.
Nicholas Trevannon,	No.	*Joſ. Hargrave*,	No.
John Norris,	Yea.		
Tho Smith,	No.		
Yeas 8.	No's 5.	No's all.	

And that this was a Miſmanagement, and alſo that it was occaſioned by the Land Officers being joined in a Council of War with the Sea Commanders, will further appear, if you inſpect the Lords Journals, where you'l find the following Votes.

Die Lunæ 17 Aprilis, 1699.

1. It is reſolved by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament aſſembled, *That the Squadron commanded by Captain* Notris, *at* St. John's *in* Newfoundland, *not going out to fight* Pointi *upon the ſeveral Intelligences given, was a very high Miſcarriage, to the great Diſſervice of the King and Kingdom.*

2. It is resolved, *That the joining the Land Officers with the Sea Officers, in the Council of War of the 24th of July, 1697. was one occasion of the Miscarriage in not fighting* Point.

So thou seest, Friend *Fudg*, that there are better Authorities condemning the use of Landmen in Naval Affairs than my bare Opinion.

Now to tell you the plain Truth of the matter, and to set the Condition of the Navy in a true light, so as to discover the Diseases, as also the Remedies and Cure of our languishing Navy; consider that all Misfortunes have sprung, and our future Dangers and Ruin are likely to ensue from the Court's having the management of the Navy. It is not only a Misfortune to Princes, but also to their People, that Men are preferred by Interest, and that when they are preferred, they have a servile Dependance upon the Court. Certainly no Man is capable to recommend another to such a Post of the Admiralty, but such a one as right well knows the Execution of that Office himself; and pity it is that neither Kings nor Parliaments have questioned Men upon the account of their Recommendations, when the Persons recommended have proved Traitors to both. Nothing certainly but personal Merit and unshaken Virtue should recommend a Man to such a Post as the Admiralty. The want of this since the Revolution has been the occasion of all the Miscarriages of our Fleet, and nothing can prevent the like fatal Calamities for the future, but the Parliaments taking the Administration of the Admiralty into their own Hands.

Fudg. Other Kings have time out of mind, held the Flags of *England* in their Hands; and I think 'twould be hard to take that Affair out of his Majesty's Hands, on whom we may better rely than on his Predecessors.

Steerw. I question not his Majesty's sincere Intentions for the good of our Realm, but we have all of us found by woful Experience, that he has been as ill served in Offices as the worst

worſt of Kings; but this by no means could be a Diminution of his Majeſties Honour. For the Admiralty of the Navy falls very naturally into the Hands of the People, they are the Lords of the Soil, they are the Proprietors of the Lands of our Iſland, of which the Navy of *England* is the chief Security; the Ships of War are the Locks and Bolts upon the Doors of their Manſion-Houſes: and who are more concerned than themſelves, to ſee 'em kept in good Order and well conditioned? Beſides, ſhould a thing of this Nature be put in practice, it cannot be called an Innovation, 'tis no more than what our Forefathers have aſſumed as their Legal Right; and we may be aſſured they very well knew the true Intereſt of our Realm, who made ſuch ample and wiſe Proviſions for the Security of our Rights, inſomuch that ſince their Times we have had no Attempt made upon our Freedoms, againſt which Attempt we could not find ſome Proviſion in their Laws; and even ſuch is the Conſtitution of our Country, that no Deſpotick Pretender can find the leaſt Flaw or Cranny in it, thro which he can creep to the Subverſion of our Fundamental Rights. Wherefore the Parliaments taking the Adminiſtration of the Navy into their own Hands, as it is a thing warranted by our Laws; ſo it cannot be ungrateful to his Majeſty, for his People to have recourſe to the beſt Methods for their own Security, on which his own Regal Dignity entirely depends.

Fudg. Captain, ſuppoſe you had your own Humour in this Point; How would the Nation be the better for it?

Steerw. I'll tell you how; were ſuch a thing put in practice, the Navy would be much beter Officer'd, Victualled and Paid. Do you think the Parliament would employ Men as Captains, that have been broke by Courts Martial for Cowardice, *&c.* or that have run away, or have delivered up their Ships before they had ten Men killed? Do you think they would paſs Men into Commiſſion upon ſuch ſlight Examination, as has been the practice of the Navy?

Fudg.

Fudg. Indeed, Captain, none has a Commiſſion but one that has paſs'd a ſtrict Examination before either the Maſter of Attendance, or ſome Captains of the Navy for that purpoſe deputed.

Steerw. I have head of the Examination of a Reformade for a Lieutenant's Commiſſion at the *Downs* before three Captains; the Queſtion ask'd him was, What Whore he lay with laſt? The Spark reply'd, With *Peg Bowls*'s Maid: Says one, I think him qualified; ſays another, I'll ſet my Hand for him for ten Commiſſions: So that ſerving on Board one of *Peg Bowls*'s or *Beſs Pink*'s Fireſhips, it ſeems is a good Qualification for a Commiſſion.

Fudg. You are pleas'd to banter our poor Commanders.

Steerw. Theſe Tales are e'en too true, and were the Navy manag'd as I ſay, your Officers would be put to very ſhort Allowance in their Cheats. How can a Purſer at 30 or 40 *l. per Ann.* Salary allow his Captain 15 Men in his Meſs, beſides Mony for freſh Proviſions? I have heard of a pretty way of making Pilots Bills: Suppoſe I am bound from *Cork* or *Waterford* to *Leverpool*, before I ſail I take in a Pilot, in my way I look into *Dublin* Bay, and there run a Bill for piloting his Majeſty's Ship from *Cork* to *Dublin*, thence I ſtretch over to *Holy-head*, where perhaps I chop to an Anchor, and ſtep aſhoar to hear a little News from *England*; then I make out a Bill for piloting his Majeſty's Ship from *Dublin* to *Holy-head*; then away I ſteer a Channel-Courſe, till I come as far as the Iſle of *Man*, whither I turn in for want of freſh Proviſions, having been long at Sea; and having bought a dozen or two of Fowls, and a few Gallons of *Manc*'s Ale, I make out a third Pilot-Bill, and then I ſail away directly for *Leverpool*, where I make out another. Now by this Propoſal of mine, the Pilot-Bill Cheat would be entirely defeated.

Fudg. The Pilotage comes under the Cognizance of the Navy-Board, and is none of our buſineſs. But ſuppoſe, Captain, your Parliament Commiſſioners ſhould be no honeſter

neſter than other Men; Mony is a great Temptation, and few Men are honeſt againſt their Intereſt.

Steerw. And therefore we ought to take care to make it the Intereſt of every Man to be honeſt; the only way to accompliſh which is to puniſh them ſeverely when they are otherwiſe; and to this end I would have an Act paſs'd this Seſſions regulating the Abuſes of the Navy, and inflicting Puniſhments on Offenders, either Officers or Seamen.

Fudg. And what Articles, what Clauſes would you have contain'd in this Act?

Steerw. To prevent Abuſes in the Examination of Officers, I would have Perſons appointed to examine them, and the Points in which they are to be examined before-hand ſtated to the Examiners, who ſhould anſwer upon Oath to the Certificates by them given the Examined.

I would have the Puniſhments of both Officers and Seamen further aſcertained, and to this end particular care to be taken in the Act of Courts-Martial, the preſent Conſtitution of which is extreamly faulty; and therefore I would have the Methods of Courts-Martial to be juſt contrary to what they now are, for their whole Proceeding tends to the Deſtruction of the Navy: and therefore,

1. I would have the place of Trial alter'd from on Board Ship *in Altum Mare* into the Seſſions Houſe in the *Old Baily*: For when they are try'd in a Ship's Cabin, it proves a mere Juggler's-Box, where we have been *hocus pocus'd* by the *Legerdemain's* of the Navy out of a good Fleet of Ships ſince the Revolution. But when they are tri'd in the open Court, and have a numerous Auditory, they can't palm Evidences and Verdicts upon us as now they do; and why is not he as much a Pirate that delivers up a Ship to the Enemy, as he that robs upon the high Seas? and if one be try'd at the *Old Baily*, why not the other?

2. I would have them try'd by a Court of Admiralty, and not by a Judg-Advocate, which at Courts Martial is generally

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a Purſer, a Steward, a Clerk or other Perſon not skill'd in Maritime Laws.

3. I would have them convicted or acquitted, not by their own Gang, as now, but by a Party-Jury compos'd of an equal number of Captains of Men of War and Commanders of Merchant-men, and a ſubſtantial Merchant to have the caſting Vote, if need require.

And whatſoever our Repreſentatives in Parliament ſhould think fit to enact as Laws or Rules in the Navy, I would have an exact Abſtract made thereof, and affix'd in ſeveral convenient places of every Ship for each Sailor to read; and the Laws thus enacted to be delivered to every Commander of the Navy along with his other Inſtructions.

Fudg. If what you ſay ſhould take effect, it would ſpoil the Trade of abundance of Officers in *England*, and you muſt expect to be curſt for your pains. But, Captain, have you no Projects to cramp the *French* at this Juncture? Can you put us upon no means and ways of giving them a fatal ſtroke at the firſt On-ſet?

Steerw. If I have never ſo many, I ſhall take care not to communicate them till I am better aſſur'd of the Integrity of our Managers. I remember upon the opening of the late War, old Capt. *Brebolt* ſhow'd me a Project he had of deſtroying St. *Malo*, which indeed was very rationally laid down, and would in all human probability have taken effect; this Project he laid before the Managers, but inſtead of putting it in Execution, the *French* got it, and perhaps it was the firſt time they got knowledg of the weak ſide of that place, which they ſoon fortified; yet ſome years afterwards we made a fruitleſs Attempt on that Place, where we flung away a great many Bombs, and our Officers got a little Wine on the *Cicumber*, and ther's an end of that Story.

Fudg. I ſhould be glad to hear more of your Stories, tho they make againſt my ſelf; but the time is come for my departure to my Office, and ſo I bid you heartily farewel.

FINIS.